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MACKALL SQUARE.

By MISS SALLY SOMERVELL MACKALL.

(Read before the Society, March 17, 1914.)

Mackall Square on Georgetown Heights was the first place to be called a square in the District of Columbia, and was deeded to Colonel Benjamin Mackall and Christiana Beall his wife in 1805, by Mrs. Mackall's father, Colonel Brooke Beall, whose wife was Margaret Johns, a descendant of Sir Arthur Johns of Bristol, England. Richard Johns of the Clifts was born in Bristol, England, in 1650 and was the first of the family to come to America. He settled at the Clifts in Calvert County, Maryland in 1719. His wife was Elizabeth Kinsey. Colonel Benjamin Mackall was a member of the Maryland Convention which assembled at Annapolis June 22nd, 1774, which adopted the Bill of Rights, the Constitution of the States, and its form of government, and instructed the Maryland Delegation in the Continental Congress to sign the Declaration of Independence. He was selected by the Convention of 1776 to take command of the regiment of militia from Calvert County, Maryland, and afterwards General Washington appointed him Lieutenant Commander, and also chairman of the Committee of Safety and Observation. He raised eight battalions of regular troops, the quota assigned to Maryland by the Continental Congress, and imported the necessary arms and ammunition at his own expense. For this he never recieved any remuneration from the Government. Some years ago General William P. Craighill, of recent fame, whose residence was in Charlestown, Virginia, sent me a list of names of

men who served in the American Revolution. The writing is in Colonel Mackall's own hand, very distinct and clear, though yellow from age. These papers were among Judge James S. Morsell's effects. The Judge resided in Georgetown for many years, and his daughter married General Chaighill. It was very evident that Colonel Mackall had been trying to recover the money from the Government, the bill failing to pass both Houses of Congress during the same session. Across the road from Mackall Square was the old home of the Boyce family, now known as "Montrose Park," which derived its name from Grahame the Earl of Montrose, of Scotland, from whom the Boyce family are descended. The Boyces are related to the Mackall family through marriage with the Grahames. When Dr. Louis Mackall, the second, married Margaret Whann McVean, Mrs. Boyce gave them a beautiful reception at "Montrose." I have in my possession an old map of Georgetown, giving the dimensions of the different squares, and names of those persons owning property on the Heights of Georgetown in 1796, and was recorded the 29th day of July, in *Liber B*, No. 2 folio, one of the land record books for that part of the District of Columbia which was within the State of Maryland. John Mackall Gantt was then Clerk of the Court. When this map was recorded, Q Street was known as Back Street. When the town of Georgetown was laid out, it was decided that no street should extent beyond Back Street; this was changed some years later, and my grandfather Mackall gave to the District the street extending entirely around "Mackall Square." No sooner was this done than the Government proceeded to ruin his place by making deep cuts on either side, and did not think it worth while to give any compensation.

The old map states that at this time "Tudor Place" was owned by the Loundes family, and that T. S. Lee owned the square of land from R Street to Q Street, where the old reservoir stands. The most interesting and historical spot in all Washington is just where the Government is building the new Q Street Bridge. It was in this immediate neighborhood that the tomb of the renowned Commodore Decatur stood, who fell in a duel with Commodore James Barron. Commodore Decatur was one of the country's most illustrious officers and slept for nearly a century on Kalorama Heights. I think Decatur would be a most fitting name for the bridge. The waters of the beautiful winding stream along the banks of Rock Creek just below Kalorama were made famous by the launching of the first steamboat by the Patriot Joel Barlow. This was before Fulton's experiments. Mr. Barlow died December 26th, 1812. The bridge might stand for all time as a monument and be a point of interest to strangers visiting the city.